

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY HELSINKI

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBSSY REYKJAVIK

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBSSY STOCKHOLM

C O N F I D E N T I A L COPENHAGEN 2266

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGSC PFOR PINT DA PO

SUBJ: PRIME MINISTER JORGENSEN'S VISIT TO PORTUGAL

REF: A) COPENHAGEN 2244 B) COPENHAGEN 2143

SUMMARY:PRIME MINISTER ANKER JORGENSEN'S VISIT TO
MARIO SOARES' SOCIALIST PARTY IN PORTUGAL, AUGUST 10-12,
IS A PARTY-TO-PARTY VISIT INTENDED TO REINFORCE TO THE
PORTUGUESE THE IMAGE OF SOARES AND HIS PARTY AS THE
MEANS OF ACHIEVING ACCEPTABILITY IN EUROPEAN POLITICAL
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CIRES. END SUMMARY.

1) EJNAR HOVGAARD CHRISTIANSEN, PSECRETARY OF THE DANISH SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC PARTY, WHO ACCOMPANIED PRIME MINISTER ANKER JORGENSEN TO THE SOCIALIST SUMMIT IN STOCKHOLM, PROVIDED EMBOFF SOME ADDITIONAL BACKGROUND TO THAT GIVEN THE AMBASSADOR AND DCM BY EIGEL JORGENSEN (REF A) ON THE PRIME MINISTER'S FORTHCOMING VISIT TO PORTUGAL, AUGUST 10-12. THE VISIT WAS PLANNED DURING CHRISTIANSEN'S WEEK-LONG VISIT IN PORTUGAL IN JULY (REF B) ANDIS IN RESPONSE T THE EXPRESS DESIRE OF MARIO SOARES, WHO HAD REQUESTED THAT THE VISIT TAKE PLACE "AS SOON AS POSSIBLE".

2) MORGENSEN WILL BE VISITING THE SOCIALIST PARTY (PS) IN HIS CAPACITY AS CHAIRMAN OF THE DANISH SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC PARTY. AFTER SOME DISCUSSION WITHIN THE LEADERSHP OF THE DAISH PARTY, IT WAS DECIDED THAT HE WILL, IN PRINCIPLE, BE PREPARED TO MEET WITH PORTUGESE GOVERNMENTAL AND MFA LEADERS SHOULD THEY REQUEST A MEETING. ANY SUCH MEETINGS, OF COURSE, WOULD BE CONDITIONAL UPON SOARES'APPROVAL.

3. WITH REGARD TO THE HAAGA MEETING, CHRISTIANSEN SAID THAT SOARES HAD GIVEN A VERY LONG REPORT ON THE SITUATON IN PORTUGAL AND OUTINED HIS PARTY'S FUTURE PLANS. HE HAD UNDERLINED THE IMPORTANCE OF CONTINUED HIGH LEVEL VISITS TO PORTUGAL BY HIS EUROPEAN FRIENDS, AND,SIMILARLY, VISITS IN THE REVERSE DIRECTION BY PORTUGUESE LEADERS -- NOT NECESSARILY ONLY SOCIALIST PARTY OFFICIALS. CHRISTIANSEN SAID THAT THE SOCIALIST LEADERS HAD ALSO DISCUSSED WHAT COULD BE CALLED AN ACTION PLAN FOR THE FUTURE BASED ON TWO ALTERNATIVE SITUATIONS PREDICATED BY SOARES; (1) THAT THIS SOCIALIST PARTY (PS) CONTINUES IN OPEN, LEGAL OPPOSITION TO THE GOVERNMENT, OR (2) THAT THE PARTY GOES UNDERGROUND. THERE WAS DISCUSSION OF FINANCIAL SUPPORT TO THE PARTY BUT CHRISTIANSEN DID NOT GO INTO DETAIL. ONE POINT HEAVILY STRESSED BY SOARES WAS THE NED TO GET IINFORMATION TO THE PORTUGUESE PEOPLE. APPARENTLY SAORES SOUGHT COMMITMENTS BY THE REPRESENTATIVES OF NEARBY COUNTRIES TO DEVOTE SOME OF THEIR RADIO AND TV BROADCASTING TIME TO CONFIDENTIAL

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NEWS IN THE PORTUGUESE LANGUAGE. HE STATED THAT A NEW PAPER OF MAGAZINE TO REPLACE REPUBLICA WOULD BE ON THE STREETS SHORTLY.

4) THE JORGENSEN VISIT TO PORTUGAL HAS BEEN HEAVILY ATTACKED BY THE COMMUNIST AND OTHER FAR-LEFT PRESS IN DENMARK AS INTERFERENCE IN THE INTERNAL AFFAIRS OF ANOTHER COUNTRY. KNUD JESPERSEN, DANISH COMMUNIST PARTY CHAIRMAN, WROTE

AN OPEN LETTER TO JORGENSEN WILLING THE VISIT "A CRUSADE TO
GIVE THE PORTUGUESE A LESSON IN DEMOCRACY". WHILE DISCOUNTING
THE NEGATIVE CONNOTATION GIVEN BY JESPERSEN, CHRISTIANSEN
COMMENTED THAT THE VISIT WAS INTENDED, OF COUSE, TO
INFLUENCE THE INTERNAL POLITICAL SITUATION IN PORTUGAL. THE
POINT JORGENSEN WILL BE TRYING TO GET ACROSS IS THAT SOARES
AND THE SOCIALIST PARTY REPRESENT THE MEANS BY WHICH PORTUGAL
CAN ACHIEV POLITICAL ACCEPTABILITY IN WESTERN EUROPE.
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